

A Mathematical Misinterpretation of Matrimony

The author of this article wishes to set before his fellow students and their friends the results of an astonishing discovery that it has been his privilege to make. This discovery has been the means of unravelling, to some extent, a mystery which has been delved into from time immemorial by millions upon millions of men in all walks of life. Rich and poor, great and small, Christian and Heathen, wise and otherwise, have all pondered upon the hidden secrets of this great connundrum, yet none, until now, has been able to perceive anything beneath the superficial with regard to it. The mystery referred to is, as you may have guessed, matrimony.

The question now presents itself to you, no doubt, "How can one of his tender years and little experience know so much of such a subject?" Truly, I cannot speak from experience, and my observations have been limited to those incident to living with a married couple for the greater part of thirty years. Yet thirty years is far too short a time to learn anything definite about matrimony even if spent in the married state.

However, the seemingly impossible has been accomplished. I do not wish to appear to brag about my discovery, because I have come upon it all too easily. Scientists have given their lives for far less than this. Few have been so favored as I. Even Isaac Newton, who discovered the law of gravitation, was permitted to do so only after he had suffered the pain of being hit upon the head by a falling apple. It really does not seem fair that I should have been permitted to discover anything concerning matrimony without having been exposed to it.

The discovery has been revealed to me by the application of Mathematics to the problem. You are all well aware of what it means to apply Mathematics to a problem. It means that the conclusions at which you arrive are incontestible. Mathematics is an exact science, and figures do not lie.

Your attention is respectfully called to the more or less well known proposition that, under certain considerations, two are equal to one.

Let $X = A$

Multiply by A

Subtract X^2 from each side

Factor

Divide by $A - X$

$$AX = A^2$$

$$AX - X^2 = A^2 - X^2$$

$$X(A - X) = (A + X)(A - X)$$

$$X = A + X$$

Now let us take a man, and denote him by "A," and a woman, and denote her by "X," and let us "join them mathematically," by the foregoing reasoning. The application is a perfectly rational one, because when a man and woman allow themselves to be joined in matrimony, they believe that they are absolutely equal, and therefore $X = A$ is correct. Of course the man tells the woman that she is away above him, and he is not worthy of her, etc., but he never means a word of it; if he did, he would be afraid to marry her for fear she would leave him at the first opportunity; and if the woman really thought that she was greater than the man, she would be reasonable about it. Now, it is demonstrated above that if X and